

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00588 041655Z

62

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4001

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0588

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT AG FR US

SUBJECT: EL MOUDJAHID BOMBES SENTENCED

REF: ALGIERS 0571

1. FOLLOWING RELATIVELY BRIEF TRIAL AND DELIBERATION BY JUDGES, MEDEA STATE SECURITY COURT HANDED DOWN FOLLOWING SENTENCES ON SEVEN MEN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP FLN DAILY EL MOUDJAHID'S ALGIERS OFFICE JAN. 3:

A. MOHAMED SMAIL MEDJBER (ALGERIAN), JAY SALBY ("AMERICAN") AND ANDRE NOEL CHERID (FRENCH OR SPANISH) WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR ATTEMPT ON SECURITY OF THE STATE, CRIMES AGAINST MILITARY AND CIVIL BUILDINGS, AND POSSESSION OF ARMS.

B. MOHAMED HAROUN AND HOCINE CHERATI (BOTH ALGERIAN) WERE GIVEN LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR ATTEMPT AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE STATE WITH EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

C. LOUNES KACI (ALGERIAN) WAS GIVEN A 20-YEAR SENTENCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 00588 041655Z

D. PAUL DANIEL (FRENCH) WAS GIVEN A SIX-MONTH
SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND FINED 1,000 DINARS FOR ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY. (1,000 FRENCH FRANCS
HE HAD OBTAINED FROM MEDJBER WERE CONFISCATED.)

2. DEFENDANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN EIGHT DAYS TO APPEAL.
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS TOLD FOREIGN JOURNALISTS THAT
THERE IS NO JUDICIAL APPEAL OF STATE SECURITY COURT SENTENCES.
APPEAL, THEREFORE, WOULD PRESUMABLY GO DIRECTLY
TO PRESIDENT.

3. IF SENTENCES CARRIED OUT, SALBY AND CHERID WILL JOIN
RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS TO BE
EXECUTED HERE SINCE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
INDEPENDENCE. WE UNDERSTAND ONE FRENCHMAN EXECUTED
SOME SIX YEARS AGO FOR KIDNAPPING, AND A SECOND MAN,
ALSO SAID TO BE FRENCH, WAS DISPATCHED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.

4. LENIENCY WITH WHICH DANIEL TREATED CONTRASTS WITH
HARSHNESS OF SENTENCES GIVEN OTHER DEFENDANTS AND
SUGGESTS HE MAY INDEED HAVE BEEN, AS HE INSISTED, NO
MORE THAN FRIEND OF MEDJBER FAMILY.LYNE

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